

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IRRADIATING A MICROLITHOGRAPHIC
SUBSTRATE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for exposing a radiation-sensitive material of a microlithographic substrate to a selected radiation. The method can include directing the radiation along a radiation path in a first direction toward a reticle, passing the radiation from the reticle and to the microlithographic substrate along the radiation path in a second direction, and moving the reticle relative to the radiation path along a reticle path generally normal to the first direction. The microlithographic substrate can move relative to the radiation path along a substrate path having a first component generally parallel to the second direction, and a second component generally perpendicular to the second direction. The microlithographic substrate can move generally parallel to and generally perpendicular to the second direction in a periodic manner while the reticle moves along the reticle path to change a relative position of a focal plane of the radiation.